

RESOLUTION NO. 20120927-088

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), proposes to list the Austin Blind salamander, Jollyville Plateau salamander, Georgetown salamander, and Salado salamander as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

WHEREAS, the proposed listing by the Service is based on a finding that these species are endangered based on destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitat or range and the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, according to the Service, the salamanders are “presently in danger of extinction throughout their entire ranges, based on the immediacy, severity and scope of the threats from habitat degradation”; and

WHEREAS, the proposed critical habitat of two of the four species fall within the jurisdiction of the City of Austin, and these species have been candidates for listing for the past five to ten years; and

WHEREAS, the critical habitat of the Austin Blind Salamander falls entirely within the jurisdiction of the City of Austin, and 4,119 acres or 86% of the proposed critical habitat for the Jollyville Plateau Salamander falls with the City of Austin’s jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, experts from the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department have conducted extensive research and gathered data for more than ten years about the Austin Blind and Jollyville Plateau salamanders; and

WHEREAS, City of Austin monitoring data indicate that the Austin Blind and Jollyville Plateau salamanders are clearly in decline due to degradation in water quality; and

WHEREAS, independent experts have corroborated the City's research; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's Environmental Board passed a resolution on September 5, 2012, recommending that the Austin City Council support the Service's proposed listing of the Austin Blind and Jollyville Plateau salamanders as endangered species; and

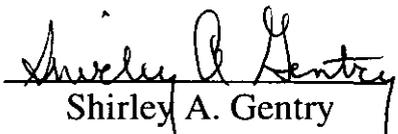
WHEREAS, the City of Austin's experts have not studied the Georgetown and Salado Salamanders nor are these salamanders within the City of Austin's jurisdiction; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is directed to submit comments prepared by knowledgeable technical staff in the Watershed Protection Department to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service providing relevant data, research, analysis, and the professional opinions of those staff regarding the scientific factual basis for the proposed listing to protect the Austin Blind and the Jollyville Plateau Salamanders under the Endangered Species Act no later than October 22, 2012.

ADOPTED: September 27, 2012

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk